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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Marshal G.K. Zhukov, as the most popular and, therefore, the most dangerous of the war heroes, has been in disgrace with the Party leaders for years. After Zhdanov's death in 1948, Malenkov, as the head of the Party machine, tried vigorously to get rid of the nationalistically minded generals, who were most friendly with his rival, Molotov.
2. Zhukov, whose relations with the Party commissars in the Army were openly hostile and who opposed Malenkov's efforts to place the Army under the full control of the Party, has been living in complete retirement. After Stalin's death, Malenkov was forced to install Zhukov as Deputy Minister of War in order to placate the group of marshals and generals who were wartime heroes.
3. The military responsibility for the Korean campaign was given to Marshal R. Ya. Malinovskiy. At the beginning, the strategy of the campaign was directed by Marshal A. M. Vasilevskiy, and later by General S. M. Shtemenko as Chief of the General Staff. The Korean campaign also weakened the position of Vasilevskiy, who has been replaced in the Ministry of War by Marshal N.A. Bulganin. Malinovskiy is still in charge of Soviet military operations in the Far East, in collaboration with the Chinese High Command.
4. Zhukov is strongly supported by Malinovskiy, as well as by Marshal Timoshenko. He is also reported to be on good terms with Lavrentiy P. Beriia.¹

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1. Comment: It is considered highly unlikely that Zhukov was ever on good terms with Beriia.

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